United Nations

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council, in Presidential statement, agrees with Secretary-General's assessment of situation in Cyprus; urges all concerned to cooperate fully to resolve outstanding issues.

- Japan donates about $10 million for emergency assistance to Palestine refugees in West Bank and Gaza Strip; contributes also to trust fund set up to deal with environmental damage in Gulf region.

- Conference on Disarmament ends first part of 1991 session in Geneva.

- European Economic Community pledges over $2 million to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) assistance to women and children in Iraq.

- Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator reports 100,000 cholera cases in Peru and 609 deaths so far.

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The President of the Security Council, Peter Hohenfellner (Austria), in a statement issued this evening on behalf of Council members following consultations, said members had considered the Secretary-General's report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus and were unanimous in their full support of his current efforts.

Council members, the statement said, agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment of the current situation, including the main issues that remained to be clarified before an outline could be completed, and encouraged him to continue his efforts as he had proposed, by making suggestions to facilitate the discussions.

The Presidential statement said the members reaffirmed Security Council resolution 649 (1990) and the mandate for the Secretary-General's mission of good offices as set out in Council resolution 367 (1975); and recalled that resolution 649 reaffirmed resolution 367 as well as the Council's support for

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the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements between the leaders of the two communities. This, the members said, should continue to serve as the basis for the Secretary-General's effort to arrive at an agreed outline.

Council members urged all concerned to act in a manner consistent with resolution 649, to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and to continue the discussions that have taken place over the past few months in order to resolve without delay the outstanding issues.

They welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to submit a further report by early July on his effort to arrive at an agreed outline of an overall settlement, and said they would decide, in the light of the situation at that time, on any further measures that might be necessary.

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The Government of Japan has donated about $10 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The largest single contribution to UNRWA's emergency programme in 1991, the funds have been provided for assistance to Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an official statement issued in Tokyo, the Government of Japan said the donation was a humanitarian gesture aimed at helping Palestinians in the occupied territories, who were facing hardships as a consequence of the Gulf crisis.

The UNRWA had made a special appeal for financial support for the Agency's emergency programme in the occupied territories at the outbreak of the Gulf war. The Agency has been distributing food to almost 300,000 Palestinian households in the West Bank and Gaza in response to the difficulties caused by the disruption of economic activities in the area and the loss of remittance from the Gulf.

In a separate development, Japan announced today its decision to contribute $1.11 million to a special trust fund set up by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mostafa K. Tolba, to deal with the environmental damage caused by the Kuwait/Iraq conflict.

Japan is the first to contribute to this fund, created to implement the Action Plan put together at a meeting of representatives of United Nations agencies in Geneva earlier this month.

The trust fund, effective until 31 December 1992, will finance, among other things, multi-disciplinary team surveys to provide, analyse and evaluate data, and the establishment of a computerized database required for the assessment of the environmental damage in the region.

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In Geneva today, the Conference on Disarmament concluded the first part of its 1991 annual session. The second part of the session will begin on 14 May, presided over by Serguei Batsanov (Soviet Union).

Addressing the meeting, the representative of Zaire, Mantuba-Ngimbi Mak, said it was time for the Conference to be flexible with regard to enlarging the membership. It was necessary, he said, to take into account the importance and the contribution of all States. Otherwise, the Conference would not be capable of achieving its objectives, which could pose a great risk to the world.

During this part of the session, which began on 22 January, the Conference re-established five of its Ad Hoc Committees, dealing with chemical weapons, radiological weapons, negative security assurances, a nuclear-test ban and prevention of an arms race in outer space.

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The European Economic Community (EEC) today pledged over $2 million for immediate use in helping alleviate the plight of women and children in Iraq. The funds will be used by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to send emergency relief, including water-purification agents, drugs, vaccines, medical supplies and cold-chain equipment mostly from its warehouse in Copenhagen.

The first of the shipments will be dispatched tomorrow.

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The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) reported today that, according to the latest government figures, there were almost 100,000 cases of cholera in Peru and that 609 people had died so far.

Following a visit to Peru, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, estimated that the cost of the epidemic would total $1 billion. He appealed for international assistance to the medical infrastructure and for strengthening water and sewage treatment facilities.

The UNDRO reported that it had so far received $5.3 million, excluding in-kind contributions and services, for which no value was indicated.

The agency also reported that 10 cases of cholera had been confirmed in the Colombian town of Tumaco. No deaths had occurred so far.

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